## **Book Club Questions Slow Dance by Rainbow Rowell**

- 1. How did you view Shiloh and Cary as teenagers, and how does that compare to how you see them as adults? What experiences or personality traits from their youth most shaped the adults they are today?
- 2. The novel looks at the "what ifs" in Shiloh and Cary's past. Which misunderstandings or missed chances do you think affected their lives and their relationship the most?
- 3. Did you notice any personal growth in Shiloh or Cary during the fourteen years they were apart and after they reconnected? How did they change, or in what areas did they seem to stay the same?
- 4. How did family backgrounds, societal expectations, and Cary's military service affect Shiloh and Cary's choices and relationship? Did these pressures bring them together or keep them apart for a while?
- 5. Talk about how Shiloh and Cary communicated when they were younger and as adults. What were their strengths and weaknesses in sharing their feelings and needs? How did their ability or inability to communicate well affect their relationship?
- 6. Do you think Shiloh and Cary's relationship would have lasted if they had dated in high school? How might their connection have been similar to their current relationship, and how might it have changed because of their growth and life experiences at that age?
- 7. How does the "slow dance" concept in Shiloh and Cary's relationship reflect their emotional journey and experiences together?
- 8. What challenges did Shiloh and Cary face while dating after their divorce, and how did they balance their personal desires with their parenting responsibilities?
- 9. Examine the roles of supporting characters in "Slow Dance." Which secondary characters, like Shiloh's mother, Cary's mother, and Shiloh's children, most influenced Shiloh and Cary's choices and their journey back to one another?
- 10. "Slow Dance" explores the idea of second chances as Shiloh and Cary try to repair their relationship. Do their efforts to restore their bond seem believable? How do they deal with past hurts, and how does forgiveness help them recover and start anew?

Discussion questions by PrincetonBookReview

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